

Duxbury Clipper

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Bill Curley

A Duxbury High School sports legend starts a new job today.

Bill Curley - DHS '90, Boston College '94, and a National Basketball Association strong man in an injury-shortened career, officially becomes head basketball coach at Emerson College this morning. He succeeds his revered Boston College coach, Jim O'Brien, for whom he has been an assistant at Emerson for the last three years.

For several weeks Bill has been champing at the bit waiting for today, when the season officially begins, and league rules allow him to join his players on the basketball court. It is hard to believe he is now 42. As most anyone of any age in Duxbury knows, the Curleys are a basketball dynasty. Bill's father, mother, two brothers and sister were fine players. But Bill was great. He played four years at DHS, led the school to a state championship, and was recruited by college basketball powers around the country.

He chose to play under Jim O'Brien at Boston College. Twenty-five years ago, BC basketball had declined from what it had been when Mr. O'Brien himself (class of 1971) was coached first by Mr. Basketball, Bob Cousy, then by future NBA hall-of-fame coach Chuck Daly. Bill Curley, playing for Jim O'Brien, led BC back, culminating in a trip to the "elite eight" in the 1994 NCAA tournament. In 2006, he was elected to the Boston College Athletic Hall of Fame.

As a pro, if Bill had been a Boston Celtic he would have been Jim Loscutoff or Dave Cowens - a heavy lifter whose career might have lasted a few years longer had he been otherwise. Today he seems to be answering the question people with God-given talent, like all human beings, eventually have to answer: "What did you do with your life?"

At 6' 9" coach Curley towers over his players. Emerson will get better, Bill wouldn't have been hired if that weren't the plan. But it is unlikely the Division III college - a communications school that has produced notable non-athletes such as Norman Lear, Jay Leno, Morton Dean (of NBC News) and Pam Cross (of Channel 5) - is going to produce many basketball likenesses of himself. That supports the notion that *communications* is the coach's intended job. Teaching basketball as a lesson in life.

Emerson College's newspaper, The Berkeley Beacon, quotes Curley saying of Jim O'Brien: He "took me as a kid from Duxbury and brought me to college and did a lot for me and my teammates." That sounds like his own mission now, and we can only say Godspeed with it.

Bill lives in Duxbury with his wife Kim and their three children, all of whom attend Duxbury Schools; and he continues to run Duxbury's youth basketball program.

The following item from our sports archive is not unrelated....

'The true sportsman'

"The true sportsman plays the game to the utmost with keenness and courage, but above all with fairness. He conceals his pride in victory with proper modesty, paying Dame Fortune her credit where due, and hides his disappointment in defeat behind a smile made possible by the thoughts of future victories. He is quick to acknowledge the skill and better judgment of his successful opponents, maintains both self-control and self-respect, and has consideration for the rights and opinions of others."

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—D.A. Mittell, Jr.

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